

between line 20 and 21, insert the following heading:

A2

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 4, between lines 26 and 27, insert the following heading:

A3

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 5, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following heading:

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--DETAILED DISCUSSION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

IN THE CLAIMS

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Claim 1 (*Amended*) Device [(1)] for securing at least one optical fibre [(2; 3; 4; 5)] to an optical apparatus [(6)], [the] said optical apparatus [(6)] comprising at least one photo-element [(20; 21; 22; 23)] mounted on a supporting element [(24)] and said at least one optical fibre [(2; 3; 4; 5) which can be connected] connectable to [the] said at least one photo-element [(20; 21; 22; 23)] by means of [the] said securing device [(1)], [characterized in that] wherein at least a part of [the] said securing device [(1)] is made from a transparent material which makes a region of the coupling between the at least one optical fibre and the at least one photo-element visible.

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Claim 2 (*Amended*) Securing device [(1)] according to claim 1, [characterized in that it] wherein said device comprises a cover [(14)] made from transparent material.

Claim 3 (*Amended*) Securing device [(1)] according to claim 1, [characterized in that the] wherein said supporting element [(24)] is made from transparent material.

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Claim 4 (*Amended*) Securing device [(1)] according to claim 1, [characterized in that the] wherein said transparent material is selected from the group comprising glass, polycarbonate [(PC)], polymethyl methacrylate [(PMMA)], polystyrene [(PS)]; acrylonitrile-styrene [(SAN)], acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene [(ABS)], polyphenylene oxide [(PPO)], polyurethane [(PUR)], polysulphone [(PSU)], polyamide [(PA)], polyvinyl chloride [(PVC)], and polyphenylene sulphide [(PPS)].

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Claim 5 (*Amended*) Device [(1)] for securing at least one optical fibre [(2; 3; 4; 5)] to an optical apparatus [(6)], [the] said optical apparatus [(6)] comprising at least one photo-element [(20, 21; 22; 23)], said at least one optical fibre [(2; 3; 4; 5)] which can be connected] connectable to [the] said at least one photo-element [(20; 21; 22; 23)], and at least one supporting element [(24)] provided with at least one guide hole [(25)] for [the] said at least one optical fibre [(2; 3; 4; 5)], [characterized in that it] wherein said device comprises a slide [(7)] provided with at least one slot [(8)], [the] said slide [(7)] assuming moveable between a first and a second predetermined position, [the] said slot [(8)], in [the] said first position of [the] said slide [(7)], being coaxial with the said hole [(25)] of [the] said supporting element [(24)] and freely housing [the] said at least one optical fibre [(2; 3; 4; 5)], and [the] said slot [(8)], in [the] said second position of [the] said slide [(7)], being out of alignment with [the] said hole [(25)] and exerting on [the] said at least one optical fibre [(2; 3; 4; 5)] a force which keeps the at least one optical fibre [(2, 3, 4, 5)] secured in [the] said hole [(25)].

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Claim 6 (*Amended*) Securing device [(1)] according to claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein said slide [(7)] is provided with at least two slots [(8)].

Claim 7 (*Amended*) Securing device [(1)] according to claim 6, [characterized in that the] wherein said optical apparatus [(6)] is provided with at least two optical fibres [(2, 3, 4, 5)].

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Claim 8 (*Amended*) Securing device [(1)] according to claim 5, [characterized in that it] wherein said device comprises a cover [(14)] provided with at least one hole [(15)] for the passage of [the] said optical fibre [(2; 3; 4; 5)], [the] said cover [(14)] being provided with an enclosure [(15)] capable of supporting [the] said slide [(7)] so that it is free to slide, and of housing elastic means [(12)] in engagement with the said slide [(7)] to keep it in [the] said second position.

Claim 9 (*Amended*) Securing device [(1)] according to claim 5, [characterized in that the] wherein said slot [(8)] comprises a semi-circular portion [(9)] having a radius greater than [that] a radius of [the] said optical fibre [(2; 3; 4; 5)].

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Claim 10 (*Amended*) Securing device [(1)] according to claim 9, [characterized in that the] wherein said semi-circular portion [(9)] of [the] said slot [(8)] has a projecting arm [(10)].

Claim 11 (*Amended*) Securing device [(1)] according to claim 9, [characterized in that the] wherein said slot [(8)] is substantially C-shaped.

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Claim 12 (*Amended*) Securing device [(1)] according to claim 10, [characterized in that the] wherein said semi-circular portion [(9)] has a notch [(30)] capable of imparting elasticity to [the] said arm [(10)].

Claim 13 (*Amended*) Securing device [(1)] according to claim 8, [characterized in that the] wherein said slide [(7)] is provided with a pin [(11)] which is used for [centring] centering [the] said elastic means [(12)].

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Claim 14 (*Amended*) Securing device [(1)] according to claim 5, [characterized in that the] wherein said slide [(7)] is made from transparent material.

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Claim 15 (*Amended*) Securing device [(1)] according to claim 8, [characterized in that the] wherein said cover [(14)] is made from transparent material.

Claim 16 (*Amended*) Securing device [(1)] according to claim 5, [characterized in that the] wherein said supporting element [(24)] is made from transparent material.

Claim 17 (*Amended*) Securing device [(1)] according to claim 14, [characterized in that the] wherein said transparent material is selected from the group comprising glass, polycarbonate [(PC)], polymethyl methacrylate [(PMMA)], polystyrene [(PS)], acrylonitrile-styrene [(SAN)], acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene [(ABS)], polyphenylene oxide [(PPO)], polyurethane [(PUR)], polysulphone [(PSU)], polyamide [(PA)], polyvinyl chloride [(PVC)], and polyphenylene sulphide [(PPS)].

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-- 18. Device for securing at least one optical fibre to an optical apparatus, said optical apparatus comprising at least one photo-element mounted on a transparent

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supporting element and said at least one optical fibre connectable to said at least one photo-element by means of said securing device, wherein said securing device comprises a cover made of a transparent material making a region of the coupling between said at least one optical fibre and the photo-element visible. --

-- 19. Device for securing at least two optical fibres to an optical apparatus, said optical apparatus comprising at least two photo-elements, said at least two optical fibres connectable to said at least two photo-elements, and at least one supporting element provided with at least two guide holes for said at least two optical fibres, wherein said device comprises:

a slide provided with at least two slots, said slide moveable between a first predetermined position and a second predetermined position, said slot, in said first position of said slide, being coaxial with the said at least two guide holes of said supporting element and freely housing said at least two optical fibres, and said slots, in said second position of said slide, being out of alignment with said holes and exerting on said optical fibres a force which keeps the optical fibres secured in said hole;

a spring for biasing said slide towards said second position; and

a cover provided with at least two holes for the passage of said at least two optical fibres, said cover slidably supporting said slide. --

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-- 20. Securing device according to claim 19, wherein each of said slots is substantially C-shaped and includes a semi-circular portion, said portion having a radius